

MINUTES  
**JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 23, 2016  
**TIME:** 8:30 A.M.  
**PLACE:** Room C310  
**MEMBERS:** Senators Co-chairman Keough, Bair, Mortimer, Brackett, Nuxoll, Johnson, Thayn, Guthrie, Schmidt, Lacey  
Representatives Co-chairman Bell, Gibbs, Miller, Youngblood, Horman, Malek, Monks, Burtenshaw, King, Gannon  
**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None  
**STAFF  
PRESENT:** Houston  
**CONVENED:** Chairman Keough convened the meeting at 8:00 A.M.

**BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS**

**Department of Lands**

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT:** On request by Johnson, granted by unanimous consent, the FY 2017 budget for the Department of Lands was reopened.

**Forest Resources Management**

**Forest Legacy Conservation Easement**

The Department of Lands (IDL) requests \$5 million in one-time federal appropriation and the Department of Fish and Game requests \$2 million in one-time federal appropriation to purchase a conservation easement. The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) was established by the federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to protect environmentally important forest lands threatened with conversion to non-forest use. As the state administrator, the Department of Lands uses federal grant money (Land and Water Conservation Fund) to purchase conservation easements, often in conjunction with other non-profit or state agencies, on private forestlands. The Clagstone Meadows Forest Legacy project is composed of over 13,000 acres of contiguous private forest land in Bonner County. The landowner wishes to sell the development rights, valued at \$12.6 million, to keep the land in timber production in perpetuity. This transaction will help protect the region's drinking water, protect wetlands, retain local timber jobs, and allow for non-motorized public access to private property. The landowner will donate 25% of the value or \$3.125 million, the USDA awarded \$5.5 million to the IDL, the Trust for Public Land will raise \$2 million, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game will contribute \$2 million to complete the transaction. IDL has \$500,000 of base federal funding, and is requesting an additional \$5 million appropriation to pass the USDA federal funds through to the landowner. The Department of Fish and Game also requests \$2 million in one-time federal appropriation from federal Pittman-Robertson moneys (excise taxes).

**CARRIED:**

**Original Motion**

Moved by Johnson, seconded by Gibbs, to move an additional \$5,000,000 from federal funds in trustee and benefit payments to the Department of Lands for the Forest Resources Management Program for fiscal year 2017, one-time.

**Ayes: 17**

Keough, Johnson, Bair, Mortimer, Brackett, Schmidt, Lacey, Bell, Gibbs, Miller, Youngblood, Horman, Malek, Monks, Burtenshaw, King, Gannon

**Nays: 3**

Nuxoll, Thayn, Guthrie

**Ab/Ex: 0**

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the motion has passed and without objection will carry a DO PASS recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by Chairman Keough.

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT:**

On request by Johnson, granted by unanimous consent, the following carryover language was approved.

**CARRYOVER  
LANGUAGE:**

REAPPROPRIATION. There is hereby reappropriated to the Department of Lands any unexpended and unencumbered balances appropriated or reappropriated for the Forest Resources Management Program for fiscal year 2016, from federal funds for trustee and benefit payments, to be used for the Forest Legacy Program for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME**

**Wildlife**

**Forest Legacy Conservation Easement**

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT:**

On request by Gibbs, granted by unanimous consent, the FY 2017 budget for the Department of Fish and Game was reopened.

The Department of Fish and Game requests \$2 million in one-time federal appropriation to purchase a conservation easement. See a more detailed description shown above for the Department of Lands.

**CARRIED:**

Moved by Gibbs, seconded by Malek, to move an additional \$2,000,000 from federal funds in capital outlay to the Department of Fish and Game for the Wildlife Program for fiscal year 2017, one-time.

**Ayes: 16**

Keough, Johnson, Bair, Brackett, Schmidt, Lacey, Bell, Gibbs, Miller, Youngblood, Horman, Malek, Monks, Burtenshaw, King, Gannon

**Nays: 4**

Mortimer, Nuxoll, Thayn, Guthrie

**Ab/Ex: 0**

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the motion has passed and without objection will carry a DO PASS recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by Chairman Keough.

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT:**

On request by Bell, granted by unanimous consent, the following legislative intent language was approved.

**INTENT  
LANGUAGE:**

Section 4. The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is a federal program that supports state efforts to protect environmentally sensitive forests through the use of conservation easements. It is the intent of the Legislature that moneys appropriated in this act shall be used by the Idaho Department of Lands, and the Department of Fish and Game to purchase the Clagstone Meadows conservation easement, in Bonner County, on behalf of the state of Idaho.

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT:**

On request by Gibbs, granted by unanimous consent, the following legislative intent language was approved.

**LEGISLATIVE  
INTENT:**

Section 5. It is the intent of the Legislature that the conservation easement shall stipulate public access to certain properties for hunting, fishing and outdoor activities, provided that the owner may close access for short periods of time because of safety concerns during timber harvest, treatment and property maintenance activities, and because of fire and other natural disasters, or because of public misuse. Furthermore, it is the intent of the Legislature that the land classification shall not be devalued, and that future property taxes owed by the landowner shall not be diminished because of the conservation easement.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business, Chairman Keough adjourned the meeting at 8:48 A.M.

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Senator Keough  
Chair

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Peggy Moyer  
Secretary